

Advisory Councils were recommended to be formed in all cities and towns where there are more than two circuits.

The question of extension of ministerial term of circuits occupied some attention and several were in favour of it.

The Conference decided that, as the centenary of the death of John Wesley will occur in 1891, services suitable to the occasion shall be held in the various circuits. Mr. Wesley died in London, March 2, 1791.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

The seventy-fifth annual Conference was held in Sunderland during the first week of June. Rev. J. Hallam was elected President, Mr. E. Jennings was elected Vice-President and Rev. J. Watson, Secretary.

On the second day of Conference, a deputation of one minister and one layman, was appointed to take part in the demonstration in London against the Government proposals to compensate publicans.

Sixteen ministers had died during the year, one of whom had attained the age of eighty-nine; fourteen others were allowed to retire from the active work, one of whom had travelled over fifty-two years, and four others more than forty.

A deputation of Nonconformist ministers resident in Sunderland paid their respects to the Conference, also a deputation from the Band of Hope Union. These fraternal gatherings are always pleasant.

The statistical report was not so encouraging as might have been expected, there being a decrease in the membership, but there was an increase of 1,680 scholars in the Sunday-schools; 1,065 past the age of fifteen were regarded as Church members, besides more than 2,000 under fourteen years of age who were members of juvenile classes.

In respect to the examination of probationers and candidates for the ministry, sixty were examined, twenty-four of whom failed, thirty-two were required by the circuits.

The income of the Missionary Society is nearly £15,000 sterling,

but in addition nearly £4,000 had been collected specially for Africa. A steam launch has been provided for Fernando Po, and an outfit for the Zambesi Mission to the Barotse. A gentleman in Sheffield sent cheques for £65 for various funds. Among several appointments made for connexional offices that of Rev. R. Tanfield greatly interested the present writer, who had the honour of recommending him for the ministry forty-seven years ago.

The Book Room report was full of statistics. Several of the serials reported a decrease of subscribers. The Magazine has 5,000 less subscribers than it had twenty-five years ago, but since that time some smaller monthlies have been brought into competition with it, altogether the sale of publications of all kinds have amounted to 2,108,104.

Sixty-three new churches have been built during the year; nine old ones, two cottages, and four plots of land had been sold. Nearly \$80,000 was raised towards the new edifices. There is a Connexional Insurance Company, in which most of the churches are insured. The profits of the Company for the past year were nearly \$6,000.

The Connexional Orphan Home supports twenty-seven orphans. Several gentlemen pay the cost of one orphan each. A memorial church is to be erected at Standley, Staffordshire, where the first Primitive Methodist class, consisting of ten members, was formed.

Thirty-six representatives were appointed to attend the Ecumenical Conference, the Rev. Dr. Antliff and Thomas Guttery are among the number. Both these gentlemen are well known in Canada. The former is uncle to Dr. Antliff in Montreal, and the latter was stationed some years in Toronto. Among the laymen are two old friends of the present writer, viz., Mr. R. Clapham, and Mr J. Coward, J.P.

Rev. Geo. Stansfield, whose great age renders him physically unfit to discharge conferential duties, has resigned his position as a member of the Deed-poll. He has been over sixty years in the ministry.